

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-08 AID-05
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P R 220906Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5612
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 2451

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, KN, US
SUBJ: MEETING OF JAPANESE AND SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: TOKYO 2383

SUMMARY: ROK FONMIN PARK TONG JIN MET WITH FONMIN HATOYAMA AND BRIEFLY WITH PM FUKUDA FEBRUARY 17-19, CAPPING WEEK OF INTENSIVE POLITICAL CONTACT BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA. PARK WAS REPORTEDLY REASSURED THAT GOJ SHARED KOREAN CONCERNS OVER IMPLICATIONS OF US TROOP REDEPLOYMENT FROM ROK AND THAT JAPAN WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING CHANGE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. KOREANS RECOGNIZED THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES REQUIRE LOW PROFILE BY FUKUDA'S GOVERNMENT ON CERTAIN KOREAN ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK FONMIN PART TONG JIN MET WITH FONMIN HATOYAMA FEBRUARY 17 AND 18 AND BRIEFLY WITH PRIMIN FUKUDA FEBRUARY 19. VISIT CAPPED WEEK OF INTENSIVE POLITICAL CONTACT BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK, INCLUDING MEETING OF ROK-JAPAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' UNION AND CONCURRENT VISIT OF FORMER KOREAN PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL. PARK'S PRIMARY PURPOSES
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POSE IN MEEINGS WITH HATOYAMA WAS APPARENTLY TO SOUND OUT GOJ THINKING ON US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM TROK AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. JUDGING FROM SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBOFF AND FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ENDO, ROK POLCOUNS CHUNG AND ROK FIRST SECRETARY KWON, PARK APPEARED SATISFIED WITH HATOYAMA'S REMARKS ON BOTH ISSUES.

2. PARK TOLD HATOYAMA THAT ROK DID NOT EXPECT US TROOPS TO REMAIN IN KOREA INDEFINITELY, BUT IT BELIEVED THAT TIME WAS NOT "RIPE" FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES, PARTICULARLY SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION. PREMATURE MOVE WOULD HAVE MILITARY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES WHICH NORTH KOREA MIGHT USE TO ADVANTAGE. PARK NOTED THAT USG HAD NOT YET FORMALLY RAISED WITHDRAWAL WITH ROK, BUT HE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE MARCH 8. ALTHOUGH HE TERMED WITHDRAWAL A US-ROK BILATERAL ISSUE, PARK SUGGESTED SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN SHARED COMMON INTEREST IN NORTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY AND ASKED JAPAN TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY PROBLEMS PRESENTED TO ROK BY WITHDRAWAL.

3. AFTER NOTING FOR RECORD JAPAN'S VIEW THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE WAS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN US AND ROK; HATOYAMA OBSERVED THAT STABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA WAS IMPORTANT TO JAPAN AND THAT JAPAN DID NOT WISH ANY SHIFT IN POWER BALANCE. FOR THIS REASON, HE WENT ON, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAD EXPRESSED "DEEP CONCERN" OVER NORTHEAST ASIAN POWER BALANCE TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE EARLIER IN FEBRUARY. (ACCORDING TO ROK EMBASSY, THIS WAS FIRST TIME FUKUDA HAD BRIEFED KOREANS ON FUKUDA'S COMMENTS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.)

4. PARK WARNED THAT RAPID IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA MIGHT HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECTS. HATOYAMA REPLIED THAT GOJ WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING CHANGE IN ITS KOREAN POLICIES AND WOULD DO NOTHING TO INCREASE PYONGYANG'S "WAR POTENTIAL."

5. REMAINDER OF PARK-HATOYAMA CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED:
--AGREEMENT THAT NINTH MINISTERIALS WOULD BE HELD DURING LATTER
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PART OF YEAR PROVIDED POLITICAL SITUATION PERMITTED;

--KOREAN REQUEST FOR SPEEDY DIET RATIFICATION OF KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, TO WHICH HATOYAMA REPLIED, "WE'LL DO OUR BEST"; (REFTEL)

--KOREAN HOPE THAT, DESPITE ROK'S INCREASED DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AMONG NON-ALIGNED, KOREAN ITEM WOULD NOT BE ON AGENDA OF 32ND UNGA;

--KOREAN PRESENTATION IN OUTLINE OF ROK FOURTH FIVE YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, COUPLED WITH PITCH FOR INCREASED BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION;

--KOREAN REQUEST THAT GOJ EXERCISE TIGHTER CONTROL OVER PRO-NORTH KOREAN ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN JAPAN; AND

--JAPANESE EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS (APPARENTLY WITHOUT DISCUSSION OF CONTENTIOUS TAKESHIMA/TOK DO ISSUE).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 2451

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT WAS APPARENT CENTRAL TOPIC AT PARK'S MEETING WITH FUKUDA, WHICH LASTED ONLY TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES. PRIMIN ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE PARK WOULD HAVE "FRANK" EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KOREAN SECURITY WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON.

7. ENDO INDICATED FONOFF WAS RELATIVELY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF PARK-HATOYAMA MEETINGS. WHILE HE SUSPECTED ROK MIGHT NOT BE "ONE HUNDRED PERCENT HAPPY WITH JAPAN," HE BELIEVED THAT ON WHOLE HOT-OYAMA HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISPEL KOREAN SUSPICIONS OF GOJ'S POLICY ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT MAKING ANY CHANGE IN GOJ'S PUBLIC POSITION THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED BY US AND ROK.

8. BOTH KOREAN EMBOFFS STATED THAT FONMIN PARK HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS TOKYO VISIT. KWON OBSERVED THAT ROK HAD CONFIRMED NOT ONLY FROM PARK-HATOYAMA CONVERSATIONS, BUT ALSO FROM OTHER KOREAN CONTACTS WITH LDP LEADERS DURING PAST WEEK THAT DESPITE FUKUDA'S APPARENT SHIFT ON KOREA -- FROM PUBLIC ANXIETY OVER TROOP WITHDRAWALS LATE LAST YEAR TO PRESENT PUBLIC STANCE DOWN PLAYING

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JAPAN'S INTEREST IN ISSUE -- "IN REALITY FUKUDA AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS MATTER."

9. KOREAN EMBOFFS SAID SEOULVIEWED FUKUDA AS "ROK'S BEST FRIEND IN JAPAN" AND UNDERSTOOD WHY, IN TIME OF LDP POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, PRIMIN SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE ON VARIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO KOREA. FOR THAT REASON, ROK WOULD NOT "PUSH" GOJ FOR MORE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC POSTURE ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS. CHUNG NOTED THAT BASIC MESSAGE IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH LDP DIETMEN DURING LAST WEEK'S ROK-JAPAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING HAD BEEN THAT KOREAN PRESSURE OR OVER-REACTION WOULD BE CONUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

10. ALTHOUGH PARK-HATOYAMA TALKS TOOK PLACE AGAINST BACKDROP OF INTENSE OPPOSITION AND MEDIA INTEREST IN ALLEGATIONS OF ROK-LDP PAY-OFFS AND COLLUSION, THIS ISSUE WAS NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESSED IN FONMINS' MEETINGS. ENDO NOTED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE SEEKING TO KEEP SCANDALS SEPARATE FROM FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONFIDENCE THAT LACKING HARD EVIDENCE, OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD "TALK THEMSELVES OUT" DURING PRESENT DIET SESSION WITHOUT DOING SERIOUS DAMAGE. ROK EMBOFF KWON AGREED WITH ENDO'S ASSESSMENT -- PROVIDED THERE WERE NO FURTHER "REVELATIONS" FROM RANARD OR PRESS IN US.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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